

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2224**

**Ruhl School**

**2504 West Ruhl Road**

**Freeland, Baltimore County**

**1879**

**Private**

The Ruhl School is located in the Sixth District of Baltimore County near Middletown. Constructed circa 1879, the school replaced an earlier schoolhouse nearby that appeared on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. Serving the rural community near the crossroads of West Ruhl Road and South Ruhl Road, the Ruhl School was noted as School No. 6. In 1881, Lulu M. Weeden served as the teacher and the trustees of the school were George Miller, George D. Owens, and James L. McCullough. The school was constructed during the height of development in Middletown. Although the community's 1881 population of only forty-nine inhabitants did not appear significant, the town was nevertheless in a strategic location between two crossroads along Middletown Road. Growth in and around Middletown slowed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving it a rural community in northern Baltimore County.

Surrounded by mature trees on a sloping lot with a stone paved driveway this school building now functions as a dwelling. It is one-and-a-half stories high and three bays wide with a projecting center gable clad with wood shingles and with cantilevered eaves. The school was constructed in a 6-course American bond with a side-gable asphalt shingle roof. The façade is pierced with two 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows, two 6/6 double-hung vinyl sash windows, and one fixed stain glass window. The projecting gable contains the center entrance, which is a single-leaf wood vertical-board door. The door has square wood surround with a lug wood lintel. There is one center-interior brick chimney, and two gable dormers with 1/1 double-hung windows. The major alterations to the house include the new projecting gable roof including the dormers on the sides, and dormers on the façade. A circa 1930 wood frame garage stands to the rear of the property. A non-historic shed and barbecue stand to the rear of the building.

Inventory No. BA-2224

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic                      Ruhl School

other

## 2. Location

street and number 2504 West Ruhl Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town      Freeland      \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Paul V. and Joanne G. Dorrett

street and number	2504 West Ruhl Road	telephone	Not Available
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city, town	Freeland	state	MD	zip code	21053-9739
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	liber 8155 folio 8
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city, town	Towson	tax map 6	tax parcel 74	tax ID number	0616015100
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				1	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2224

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Surrounded by mature trees on a sloping lot with a stone paved driveway this school building now functions as a dwelling. It is one-and-a-half stories high and three bays wide with a projecting center gable clad with wood shingles and with cantilevered eaves. The school was constructed in a 6-course American bond with a side-gable asphalt shingle roof. The façade is pierced with two 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows, two 6/6 double-hung vinyl sash windows, and one fixed stain glass window. The projecting gable contains the center entrance, which is a single-leaf wood vertical-board door. The door has square wood surround with a lug wood lintel. There is one center-interior brick chimney, and two gable dormers with 1/1 double-hung windows. The major alterations to the house include the new projecting gable roof including the dormers on the sides, and dormers on the façade. A circa 1930 wood frame garage stands to the rear of the property. It is one-and-a-half stories high and two bays wide. It is clad with weatherboard siding, and the front gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. It is lighted with a 4-light wood casement window with a wood lug lintel, and there are two sliding vertical board doors. The garage features overhanging eaves, exposed roof rafters, and a wood cornice. A circa 1990 prefabricated shed stands on the property. It is constructed of vertical boards with a gambrel asphalt shingle roof. A circa 1980 stone barbecue stands to the rear of the school.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2224

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1879 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1879 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Ruhl School is located in the Sixth District of Baltimore County near Middletown. Constructed circa 1879, the school replaced an earlier schoolhouse nearby that appeared on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. Serving the rural community near the crossroads of West Ruhl Road and South Ruhl Road, the Ruhl School was noted as School No. 6. In 1881, Lulu M. Weeden served as the teacher and the trustees of the school were George Miller, George D. Owens, and James L. McCullough. The Sixth District is located in the northwest corner of Baltimore County and is historically known for its rugged landscape, abundant waterpower, and production of wheat, corn, and oats. The school was constructed during the height of development in Middletown. By 1850, Middletown had begun to thrive, as the mid-century county atlas indicates that the town included a tavern and schoolhouse in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road.<sup>1</sup> By 1877, a church had been erected and Middletown had grown from a small crossroads community into a rural center. At that time, the town included a physician's office, schoolhouse, Odd Fellows hall, a store and one "shop."<sup>2</sup> Although the community's 1881 population of only forty-nine inhabitants did not appear significant, the town was nevertheless in a strategic location between two crossroads along Middletown Road.<sup>3</sup> Growth in and around Middletown slowed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving it a rural community in northern Baltimore County.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>3</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 870.

<sup>4</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2224

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1.41 Acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>New Freedom</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Ruhl School is located at 2504 West Ruhl Road in Freeland in the Sixth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with tax map 6, parcel 74 since its construction in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Form Prepared by

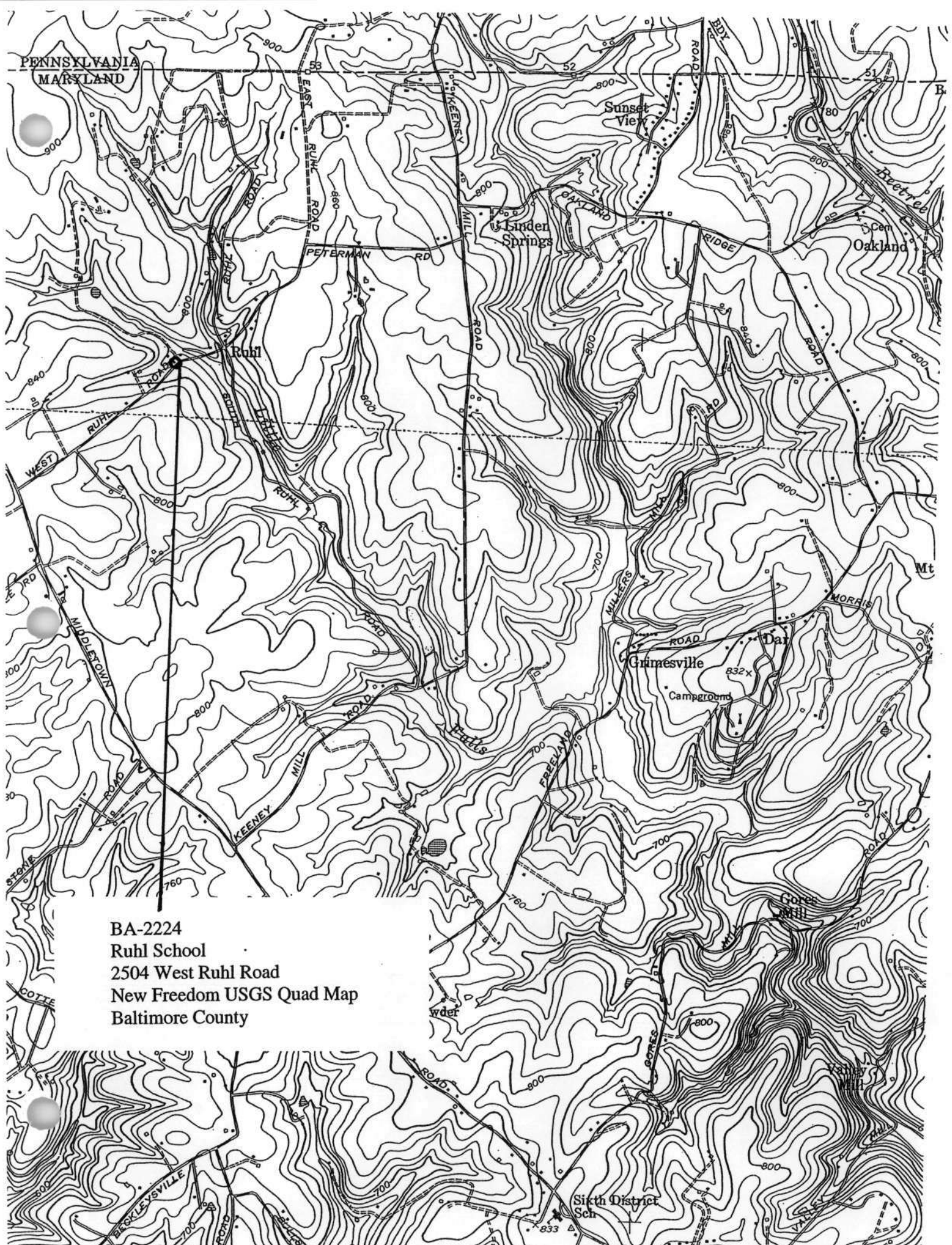
name/title	R. Weidlich and K. Baynard, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	February 11, 2002
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





BA-2224  
Ruhl School  
2504 West Ruhl Road  
New Freedom USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County



BA-2224  
RHUL SCHOOL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES  
2/2022  
MHT  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
1 of 5





BA-2224

RHUL SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

2/2002

MHT

EAST ELEVATION

2 of 5



BA-2224

RHUL SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

2/2002

MAT

NORTH ELEVATION

3 of 5





BA-2224

RHUL SCHOOL

BALTIMORE County, MD

TRACERIES

2/2002

MHT

WEST ELEVATION

4 of 5

CA-2224

**RUHL SCHOOL** - 1879 - 2504 West Ruhl Road, Ruhl. Brick school 24 by 36 feet built on lot acquired in 1878 from Charlotte Palmer. "It replaces a dilapidated log house in which some of the present day system served an apprenticeship more than forty years ago," as reported by Board of School Commissioners report for 1879. Sold off by Board of Education in 1933 to Pierce Stambaugh. The old school was 150 yards away per recitation in deeds CWB JR. 1028:174.

The school commissioners gave most of their architectural work to Frank E. Davis at that time. The 1878 report stated, "To Charlotte Palmer, \$50 for one and a half acres near the old log building known as Ruhl's School house in the Sixth Election District. A handsome brick house will be erected here early in the spring, the building of which is under contract."

The minutes of the commissioners recorded October 17, 1888, an "order to rebuild School 6, District 6 .... burned..." (Vol. 5:21).